

Message Text

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SUBJ: FY 1975 CCP -- MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY. ALL ACTIONS REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 31 COMPLETED EXCEPT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. BUSINESS CENTER AND COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT TO LAUREL-LANGLEY. FIRST HALF OF YEAR UNDER REVIEW WAS CHARACTERIZED BY CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO PROTECTION OF U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS, TECHNICAL LAUREL-LANGLEY TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS ON CIVIL AVIATION, AND HIGHER VOLUME OF VISITORS, PARTICULARLY GAO AUDITORS, WHICH IMPOSED ADDITIONAL AND UNPLANNED WORKLOAD. PREPARATIONS ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN SECOND HALF OF YEAR PROCEEDING WELL. END.

1. EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM. EMBASSY IMPROVED AND EXPANDED ITS ACTIVITIES IN EXPORT PROMOTION. TWO EVENTS, ONE CATALOG SHOW AND ONE TECHNICAL SEMINAR, WERE HELD WITH GREAT SUCCESS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, WHILE PREPARATIONS FOR TWO CATALOG SHOWS AND THE APRIL SOLO ARE PROGRESSING WELL. EMBASSY DEVOTED GREATER RESOURCES TO MARKET RESEARCH, INCLUDING ONE CONTRACT STUDY, SIX INHOUSE REPORTS, AND ANNUAL PRODUCT PRIORITY LISTING FOR THE PHILIPPINES (A-378 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1974).

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BECAUSE OF INCREASED WORKLOAD, ALMOST ALL OF THE REPORTS

WERE COMPLETED AFTER THEIR ORIGINAL DEADLINES. TWO NEW PURPOSES, AND ONE MAJOR PROVINCIAL TRIP WAS MADE TO NORTHERN MINDANAO AND CEBU WHERE CALLS WERE MADE ON SUCH COMPANIES AS NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION, MABUHAY VINYL (EXPANDING ITS SODA ASH FACILITY WITH DIAMOND SHAMROCK TECHNOLOGY) AND ATLAS MINING (IMPROVING ITS EQUIPMENT WITH WABCO TRUCKS AND PLANNING A FERTILIZER AND SMELTER PROJECTS).

2. MAJOR PROJECTS. EMBASSY SENT IN COMPREHENSIVE ROUND-UP OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN A-223 OF JULY 17, 1974 AND FOLLOWED UP WITH INDIVIDUAL REPORTING. REGULAR WEEKLY ECONOMIC MEETING OF VARIOUS PARTS OF ENTIRE MISSION -- INCLUDING AGATT, USAID, USADB, FAA AND USIS -- HAS BEEN UTILIZED AS WORKING ARM OF BIG TICKET COMMITTEE AND ADHOC GROUP FOR ACTION ON PARTICULAR CCP MATTER. BECAUSE OF LIMITED SCOPE AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEFENSE INDUSTRY, E.G., CLASSIFIED NATURE, ECON/COMMERCIAL SECTION COORDINATES DIRECT WITH JUSMAG AND POL/MIL ONLY RATHER THAN IN COMMITTEE.

3. INTEGRATION OF ECON/COMMERCIAL SECTION IS NOW COMPLETE, AND UPDATED MIX OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WERE FORMALLY PROMULGATED NOVEMBER 15, 1974.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. BUSINESS CENTER WAS DELAYED PENDING RESOLUTION OF FUNDING FROM COMMERCE. DESPITE LACK OF SUCH FUNDING, EMBASSY IS PROCEEDING TO RE-LOCATE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AND ESTABLISH FACILITY TO BETTER SERVICE BUSINESS VISITORS. FACILITY WILL BE SIMPLE BUT USEFUL INNOVATION.

5. TECHNICAL TALKS ON SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT TO LAUREL-LANGLEY WERE HELD IN JULY, AND FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY OCCUR. AN INTERIM CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER AFTER ARDUOUS NEGOTIATIONS, BUT CIVIL AIR ISSUES REMAIN ALIVE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE HEAVY DEMANDS ON RESOURCES. PROTECTION OF AND REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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E.G., LAND, RETAIL TRADE, AND TRADEMARKS, ALSO IMPOSED ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON RESOURCES AS DID VOLUME OF VISITORS, PARTICULARLY GAO AND TWO MICRONESIAN MISSIONS. SULLIVAN

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